

be \$1.3 billion a week. The total cost of reconstruction, including the funds we have just voted, through September 30 of next year will be almost \$25 billion.

This administration has avoided answering the question: How much will we spend before we exit Iraq?

As a result, I am concerned that this \$87 billion supplemental appropriation is in essence a blank check for the President's failed policy. It will remove a substantial portion of the pressure for real progress in the internationalization of the occupation and reconstruction efforts directed at Iraq. Passage of this supplemental spending bill will remove the incentive for this administration to negotiate.

Mr. President, the reality is that it is only through significant international troops and money, only with significant decision sharing by the United States with those foreign countries that our Nation has any reasonable expectation of an honorable and expeditious exit from Iraq.

This appropriation leads us in the opposite direction. We will do it alone. It will increase the risk to our brave soldiers. It will unnecessarily transfer reconstruction costs to the U.S. taxpayer, and it will lengthen the time when the United States can honorably and expeditiously leave Iraq.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TODAY IN CONGRESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today has been a very good day in the Senate, as well as in the House of Representatives, with a strong bipartisan majority vote in both Houses of Congress approving the funds necessary to support our soldiers and civilians serving in Iraq and to move quickly to stabilize Iraq and Afghanistan.

I believe this is a major victory for the President of the United States in his efforts to bring stability and peace to Iraq.

Personally, I am very pleased with the overwhelming bipartisan support for the President's proposal in the Senate. When the package was first sent to the Hill several weeks ago, very few thought it possible. We have had to make a number of difficult votes and, indeed, we worked very late last night, into the early hours of this morning, completing this bill, now, just several hours ago.

I am certain the Senate- and House-passed bills will allow us that opportunity to negotiate a final legislative package that, indeed, will give the President everything he requested.

It was important to do. It was important to complete this legislation today

especially, not only to get the money to our troops as soon as possible and to rebuild the civilian infrastructure in Iraq as soon as possible but also because of the donor conference in Madrid next week.

The President, indeed, has made a strong stand for freedom and democracy in Iraq, as well as Afghanistan, and he has taken forceful action against brutality and terrorism in the region, and by doing so has made America safer and our citizens more secure.

Indeed, we are at war in Afghanistan as well as Iraq. The funds in this legislation provide both the direct support for our soldiers, as well as an investment in creating a safer environment in the countries where they serve. The legislation will make them safer and, in all likelihood, will get them home sooner.

I also want to take this opportunity to commend Senator STEVENS for his tremendous leadership on this particular legislation, as well as Senator WARNER and Senator MCCAIN and Senator MCCONNELL, all for their tireless efforts to pass this emergency funding request.

MEASURE RETURNED TO THE CALENDAR—S. 1689

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on final passage on S. 1689 be vitiated and that the bill be returned to the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in Pittsburgh, PA. On April 19, 2002, Adam Bishop was bludgeoned to death with a claw hammer by his own brother, Ian Bishop, 14, and alleged accomplice Robert Laskowski, 15. As several witnesses testified, the killing was because Ian thought his brother was gay. The victim was struck by his brother at least 15 times with the hammer and was moved to various parts of the home before he was left to die in a bathtub.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

DISARMING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ABUSERS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, last week the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence United, with the Million Mom March, released a report entitled "Disarming Domestic Violence Abusers." This report provides a guide for closing loopholes in State gun laws that allow domestic violence abusers to purchase or possess firearms and offers Congress some insight into how to help our States effectively enforce gun safety laws.

Under current Federal law, domestic violence abusers subject to restraining orders or convicted of domestic violence are prohibited from owning guns. Despite the law, some domestic violence offenders continue to gain access to firearms.

The Brady report proposes a number of ways to keep guns out of the hands of domestic violence offenders. Among the suggestions are ensuring that restraining orders clearly state that the possession of a firearm is prohibited and that restraining orders be entered into state and national databases used to conduct background checks on gun sales. Further, the report recommends that law enforcement remove firearms from the scene of domestic violence incidents. Finally, stopping domestic abusers from buying additional guns requires background checks on the sale of all firearm transfers, including those that take place at gun shows.

The deadly combination of domestic violence and guns put many women and families at great risk. While Federal laws provide a general framework to prevent abusers from purchasing or possessing firearms, the Federal laws will not be effective in protecting women from armed abusers until every State enacts complementary laws. I urge my colleagues to read the Brady Campaign's report and to support Federal efforts that assist States with enforcing our Nation's gun safety laws.

NANOTECHNOLOGY

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, recently I hosted a luncheon of the American Chemical Society on nanotechnology. It was a pleasure to be in the company of so many brilliant minds, and those concerned with the technological and economic future of our Nation.

Of all the areas of scientific innovation being developed today, none is more profound than nanotechnology. The ability to manipulate individual atoms is unprecedented in human history and could lead to the redesign of